

TENNESSEE CAN RATIFY SUFFRAGE

Justice Department Tells Officials Legislature's Action Is Final

GOVERNOR TO ACT SOON

By the Associated Press
Washington, June 24.—Assistant Attorney General Frierson has advised Governor Roberts of Tennessee, that the Legislature of that state could ratify the suffrage amendment without submitting the issue to the people.
Mr. Frierson's opinion, given orally and in writing, both to Governor Roberts and the attorney general of Tennessee, was based largely on the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Ohio referendum case. In that case the court held that ratification of amendments could be had only by state legislatures or conventions, and that provisions of state constitutions that ratification be referred to a vote of the

people conflicted with the federal constitution.
It was said today that President Wilson asked the attorney general for an interpretation of the Tennessee constitution with respect to ratification. Mr. Frierson, who is a native of Tennessee, ruled that the Supreme Court decision made invalid that section of the Tennessee constitution which provides that any action on a federal amendment must be taken by a legislature the members of which have been elected after the amendment was submitted to the state.
Miss Alice Paul, chairman of the Woman's party, said today that Governor Roberts' decision to call a special session of the Tennessee Legislature to act on the suffrage amendment "means certain victory."

Nashville, Tenn., June 24.—(By A. P.)—Suffrage hopes rallied today when it was learned Governor Roberts planned to call a special session of the Legislature to act on the federal amendment, following receipt of a telegram from President Wilson urging such action in the interests of "real service to the party and to the nation."
The Legislature will be called to meet, the governor said, in plenty of time to permit the women of the United States to vote in the November election, provided ratification of the suffrage amendment is completed through favorable action by Tennessee.
The President in his telegram said: "It would be a real service to the party and to the nation if it is possible for you under the peculiar provision of

your state constitution, having in mind the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the Ohio case, to call a special session of the Legislature of Tennessee to consider the suffrage amendment. Allow me to urge this very earnestly."
The governor declined to comment on the constitutionality of the Legislature's act should a favorable vote on the suffrage amendment be recorded, saying that matter was in the hands of State Attorney General Thompson, who has it up for advice with the Department of Justice at Washington.
"It is purely a federal matter and not a state question," said the governor, "and I have nothing to do with that end of it."
The question of the constitutionality of the Legislature's action in event of the ratification would hinge on a clause in the state constitution which provides that any action on a federal amendment must be taken by a Legislature the members of which have been elected after the amendment was submitted to the state.
The members of the Legislature to be called in special session were elected previous to submission by Congress of

the suffrage amendment. The decision of the Supreme Court in the Ohio referendum case has been interpreted by some legal experts, however, as invalidating the clause.
New Haven, Conn., June 24.—The men's Republican ratification committee of Connecticut, at a meeting yesterday, voted to "oppose the nomination of any candidate for state office or membership in the General Assembly of 1921 who shall not openly declare himself for woman suffrage or the federal amendment."
The committee also voted approval of "the declaration of the national Republican platform that the suffrage amendment must be ratified in time for women to vote in the 1920 election."

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